A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, February 15. 1711.

WOULD ſome People have with-holden their Cenſures of this Paper, till they had heard me out, they might perhaps have ſeen leſs Cauſe to Reproach themſelves, than they will have at the End of the Story: I have branded the Ignorance and Folly of our own Side, with a Plainneſs ſome People cannot bear; I come now to ſhew the Injuſtice, the Partiality, and the Malice on the other Side; nor can I expect they ſhould bear it any better than you: and thus this Author obtains his uſual Reward, to be rail'd at by both Sides; but Truth fears you not, and Impartial Principles will ſupport an Honeſt Man againſt Univerſal Prejudice.

I am now to prove, that, *all my former Objections notwithſtanding*, the Generoſity, the publick Spirit, and the Concern of the Generality of the Whigs for the Publick Safety, in ſpight of Diſcouragements, is *even now*, the Support of the Cauſe, the Terror of *France*, and the Foundation on which the general Good at preſent depends —— And that this may be done with the greateſt Clearneſs, I ſhall Examin into the ſeveral Steps taken by the Mad Men of the Age, by which the publick Credit has been Reduc'd from what it was to what it is, and more eſpecially as it concerns *Whig* and *Tory*.

I'll

I'll allow, for Satisfaction of a Tory Argument, that from the beginning of the New Measures, all the Changes, all the Proceedings within Doors and without, have been regretted, diſlik'd, oppos'd, and ſtruggled againſt by the Whiggs; I'll ſuppoſe the Whigs in general have thought themſelves Mal-treated, have ſhew'd themſelves uneaſie, have been Jealous both of their Liberties and Safety, their Properties and Religion —— Indeed they have had but too much Cauſe; they have ſeen themſelves deliver'd over to Sathan as Miſcreants, to be deteſted and extruded the Society of Chriſtians, by an Inſolent Bedlamite of the Pulpit; they have ſeen their Tolleration Caſtrated into a bare Exemption from Penal Laws —— And themſelves Threatned with Wholeſome Severities, &c. a fine new-faſhion'd Word for Perſecution —— They have ſeen their Houſes Rabbled, their Perſons Mob'd, and a Street Tumult threatning them with Univerſal Plunder; They have heard their Bank, where under the Sacred Protection of the Government, their Eſtates are depoſited, nam'd at the Head of a Rabble, as the Object of their next Attempt, and the Guard of it put into the Hands of ſome, who are not famous for having much Concern in it —— They have heard the Notion of a Parliament-Spunge too rife in the Mouths of their profeſs'd Enemies, Coin'd at the Table of their chief Peace Officer, and from thence, finding it receiv'd with Abhorrence, the Baſtard wrap'd in Whig Swadling Clouts, and laid at their Door who had no ſhare in begetting it.

Now, Gentlemen Tories —— Either this is all true, or it is not, EXAMIN it, and Contradict it if you can, or any part of it —— If then the Whigs put any Truſt in you after this, if ever a Whig left any Stock in the Bank, or kept an Annuity by him unſold; if he valu'd himſelf at all upon Publick Funds, or did not draw out every Peny he could draw out —— Was he not a Generous and Diſintereſted Enemy!

Why have we any Credit? Why is not every Fund, every Annuity, every Ticket, every Tally, run down juſt to that Ebb, as they muſt be, if none but High Flyers were to keep them up?

Or, Gentlemen, is the Fact true? Have the Whigs Sold out? Is there any Annuities ſettled among their Families? —— Have they any Tickets left in the Lottery? Have they any Tallies in the Exchequer, any Stock in the Bank, or any Exchequer Bills Circulating in their Caſh? Or is the Publick Credit now all in your own Hands? Why do you not tell Noſes, and let the World ſee where the Strength of the Nation lies? Let us ſee if the Whigs have any Stock left?

Either they have, or they have not; if they have, then you have been uſed very Generouſly in their Hands; and if they had not, What think you would have been the Price of theſe Things before now? —— Now, *Gentlemen Tories*, will you ſpeak like Men of Honour, *ſome of you, I hope, are ſo*, Can you do entirely without the Whigs in the Article of Credit? Can you fill the new Lottery, Advance Loans on every Fund, buy the Whigs out of the Bank, and effectually Circulate your Exchequer Bills without them? —— *If you cannot*, then by the Generoſity of thoſe very Whigs, who you would call Enemies to the Government, are all your Schemes Supported, the *French* King kept down, and the Publick made able to carry on the War.

It is true, the Whigs have their Intereſt in the Publick Safety —— And why elſe have I argu'd with them all along, for keeping up the Credit? —— Can thoſe Whigs who thus Contribute to uphold Credit, be charg'd with joining with you Tories in all your Vile High Flying Projects? *No, no*, —— Neither any more can he juſtly be Charged with joining with you who has Exhorted them to do ſo —— But it is all from a Principle of true Love to the common National Good, that *France* may not Triumph over us all, and that you may have Leiſure to come to your ſelves, and

ſee

ſee who are Friends to the Queen and the Conſtitution, and who not.

If theſe Things are not ſo, and Credit is a Party Tool —— Will you try what you can do with her by your ſelves? See how you can maintain her? —— *Nay*, ſee if ſhe will come and live with you —— And let the World ſee how long ſhe will ſtay with you —— Or let her ſpeak for her ſelf, *and tell you*, who are the Men that keep her alive even at this Time, in ſpight of Tumults, Party Strife, and National Jealouſies.

My Life for yours ſhe will anſwer you, that the Whigs, even under all their Diſcouragements, Diſplacings, and the Inſults of your Street Violence, have yet put their Hands to the Work, and helped to ſupport her.

I need go no farther than the Prices of Stocks and Funds of all ſorts, which, as before, would have had another Face, had the Whigs Univerſally, or indeed Generally forſaken the Publick Credit; That there is any Value put upon ſuch Things, that they Circulate, and are daily bought and ſold, is certainly an Effect of the Whigs joining with the reſt of their Neighbours, in keeping up Credit.

That our Credit is fallen below what it was, may be owing to Fears, Doubts, and the Diſorder of the People's Minds, and either there has been Cauſe for it, or there has not; if there has been Cauſe, let the Blame lie where the Reaſon lies; if there has not, let Time decide that Debate —— But certainly, if the Whigs had not conſider'd that the whole Nation lay at Stake; had they not ſeen, that to Ruin Credit had been to Ruin *Britain*, and to give us up to *France*; had they given way to their Fears, and not Choſen rather to be Inſulted by *Home* Enemies, than devour'd by *Foreign*, *To your Tents, O Iſrael!* —— Every Man for himſelf had *been the Word*; every Man had turn'd what he had, into Money, at the beſt Rate he could, and not a Whig had been Owner of a Farthing in the Publick, that he could have diſpos'd of.

And what had been the Conſequence of this but the Ruin of the Nation? — Who had been Gratified in it but *France*, and the Enemies of our Conſtitution? —— This is the Reaſon why thoſe that have had a Concern for the Nation, for the Queen, and for the Conſtitution, have argued warmly for keeping up the Publick Credit — From this Principle, has the Author of this Paper preſs'd you all to work at this Pump, leſt the Ship ſink; and how can you take it ill, that I upbraid ſome, who would have withheld themſelves from their Country's Safety, with being of ſelfiſh Principles, and not ſeeing into the Nature and Reaſon of Things.

I muſt be as plain with the other Side, *if the Whigs have done thus* —— They have heap'd Coals of Fire on your Heads, and when your Temper returns, I doubt not but you will acknowledge you have uſed them ill.

ADVER-

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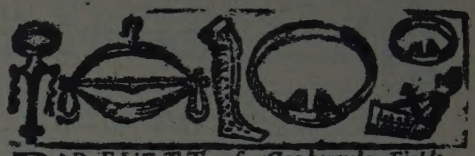

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